Complete Listing of the Claims

This listing of claims below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

I/we claim:

Claims 1-44 (Previously Canceled).

45.   (Previously Added)   A method of operating an off-board device to communicate with a diagnostic system of a vehicle, the diagnostic system having one or more modules, comprising the steps of:

(a) determining a number of pieces of information received from one or more modules using a first communications protocol;

(b) determining a number of pieces of information received from the one or more modules using a second communications protocol; and

(c) selecting from the plurality of communications protocols a communications protocol to use for communications between the off-board device and the diagnostic system using at least the number of pieces of information received from the one or more modules using the first communications protocol and the number of pieces of information received from the one or more modules using the second communications protocol.

46.   (Previously Added)   The method of claim 45 further comprising:

(a) requesting data from one or more of the diagnostic system modules using a first communications protocol;

(b) waiting a selected length of time;

(c) requesting data from the one or more of the diagnostic system modules using a second communications protocol upon expiration of the selected length of time.

47.   (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the pieces of information are indicative of monitors.

48.   (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the pieces of information are indicative of trouble codes.

49. (New) The method of claim 45 further comprising establishing a link with the diagnostic system using the selected communications protocol.

50. (New) The method of claim 49 further comprising sending a request using the selected communications protocol to the vehicle diagnostic system and comparing the number of pieces of information received in response to the request from the one or more modules to the number of pieces of information previously received from a similar request from the one or more modules.

51. (New) The method of claim 50 further comprising determining whether one or more modules has stopped communicating with the off-board device as a function of the comparison of the number of pieces of information received in response to the request from the one or more modules to the number of pieces of information previously received from a similar request from the one or more modules.

52. (New) The method of claim 51 further comprising re-establishing the communications link with the diagnostic system using the selected communications protocol.

53. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the first communications protocol is an SAE J1850 communications protocol.

54. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the first communications protocol is an ISO 9141-2 communications protocol.

55. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the first communications protocol is an ISO 14230-4 communications protocol.

56. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the first communications protocol is a CAN communications protocol.

57. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the first communications protocol is a wireless communications protocol.

58. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the second communications protocol is an SAE J1850 communications protocol.

59. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the second communications protocol is an ISO 9141-2 communications protocol.

60. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the second communications protocol is an ISO 14230-4 communications protocol.

61. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the second communications protocol is a CAN communications protocol.

62. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the second communications protocol is a wireless communications protocol.

63. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the pieces of information received are indicative of the identities of the one or more modules that responded to the request.

64. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein selecting from the plurality of communications protocols is a function of the most number of pieces of information received from the one or more modules.

65. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein selecting from the plurality of communications protocols is a function of the least number of pieces of information received from the one or more modules.

66. (New) The method of claim 45 further comprising storing the number of pieces of information received from the one or more modules using the first communications protocol.

67. (New) The method of claim 45 further comprising storing the number of pieces of information received from the one or more modules using the second communications protocol.